THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Draft Ninth Five Year (1997—2002), approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Government decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans on the above guidelines have been prepared and suitably incorporated into the existing Draft. The new Draft Ninth Five Year Plan has been discussed at the meetings of the internal Planning Commission and Full Planning Commission. The revised document is to be submitted through due process for consideration and approval of National Development Council.

(d) It is proposed to bring in functional changes in the working of the Planning Commission in the context of implementation of the Economic Reforms so that the Commission could concentrate more on new emerging areas/trends.

GDP growth rate

1376. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission at its recently held meeting in New Delhi has revised the GDP growth for Ninth Plan downwards to 6.5 per cent as against the 7 per cent GDP growth initially projected by the Commission as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th November, 1998;

(b) whether Government have also revised all the other Plan targets in tune with the downward revision in the GDP projections; and

(c) if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating targeted economic growth rates, industrial and agricultural projects, export projections and consequential (fiscal) deficit etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997—2002, approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Government has decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans on the above guidelines have been prepared and suitably incorporated into the existing Draft. The new Draft Ninth Fivey Year Plan has been discussed at the meetings of the internal Planning Commission and Full Planning Commission. The revised document is to be submitted through due process for consideration and approval of National Development Council. The Planning Commission, in its last meeting in November, 1998, decided to recommend to the National Development Council a reduction in the target rate of growth of GDP from 7.0 per cent per annum to 6.5 per cent per annum average over the five years of the Ninth Plan. This has been done to take into account the actual realisation of 5.1% growth during 1997-98 (i.e., the first year of the Ninth Plan) and expected realisation of about 6% growth during 1998-99 (i.e., the second year of the Plan). Implicit in this target is more than 7% of average growth during the remaining three years of the Plan.

Revision of guidelines on MPLADS

1377. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: